

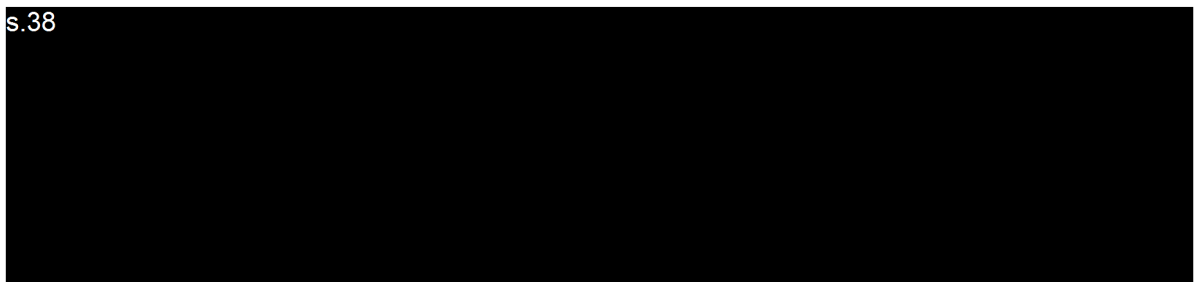
WSHDC-10373 - Readout: WSHDC-DHOM Speaks with Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Michigan)

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On February 10, 2022, WSHDC-DHOM/Loken spoke with Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI-05) to discuss the situation at the border. Rep. Kildee, whose district includes the city of Flint (roughly 100 km from the Ambassador Bridge), said he requested the call to discuss ways in which he could help resolve the situation. The conversation was constructive and collaborative, and the call lasted its scheduled 15 minutes. Key takeaways:

- **Overview of situation:** DHOM provided the congressman with an overview of the current situation at the border, underscoring that Canadian authorities across multiple parts of the government are working to reopen the border as quickly as possible. He emphasized the shared nature of the challenge—referencing American support, including through funding, for the convoys in Canada—and the many ways in which Canadian and American officials are working together to prevent the situation from worsening. DHOM described operational stopgap efforts between CBSA and CBP to increase capacity at alternative ports of entry like the Detroit-Windsor tunnel and the Blue Water Bridge. Highlighting cooperation between the Canadian government and the Biden Administration, DHOM mentioned that TC Minister Alghabra and Secretary Buttigieg spoke earlier today, and that PS Minister Mendicino and Secretary Mayorkas also plan on speaking. Additionally, DHOM explained that efforts are underway to reopen the Ambassador Bridge at the municipal level, with Windsor Mayor Dilkens having requested a court injunction that would allow the city to remove anyone who does not leave voluntarily. Kildee seemed to appreciate the close cooperation between Canadian and American officials, and showed interest in how Mayor Dilkens' approach might play out.

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DHOM thanked the congressman for his offer to assist and expressed appreciation for Kildee's recognition of the crossing's importance. He noted that the protests are evidently about more than just vaccine mandates for truckers, and agreed with the importance of having as many voices as possible—including Kildee's—speak to how detrimental the blockades are to both countries.

Next steps: DHOM and Rep. Kildee agreed to maintain open lines of communication, noting the close relationship that already exist between WSHDC and Kildee's office.

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